

August 8, 2011 For Immediate Release Moore County Working Lands Protection Plan – Update
Carthage, NC, August 8, 2011 - The Moore County Soil and Water Conservation District office, in collaboration with the Cooperative Extension and Planning & Community Development Departments, has prepared a final draft of the Moore County Working Lands Protection Plan. Over the past four months a thorough review of the plan was conducted by a “Consensus Working Group (CWG)” made up of four members of the Moore County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors, and three members from each of the County’s Agricultural Advisory Board and Planning Board. In an effort to raise awareness and support of the plan the CWG is offering the current draft plan up for a review and comment period. The comment period for the draft will run through **Friday, September 16, 2011**

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To view/download a digital copy of the draft plan you may click the following link:

<http://www.moorecountync.gov/index.php/en/working-lands-protection-plan>

. To view a printed copy of the draft plan you may stop by the Moore County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cooperative Extension, and/or Planning Department offices. Additionally a printed copy of the draft plan will be on file at all the Moore County Public Libraries: Main Library in Carthage, Aberdeen Library, Pinebluff Library, Robbins Library, & Vass Library. If you can not access one of the plans on file at one of the above mentioned locations and would like to receive a printed copy of the plan, please contact Jeremy Rust (910-947-5010) in the Moore County Planning & Community Development office.

The purpose of the plan is to provide an assessment of the farm and forest industries in Moore County, identify their challenges and opportunities, and develop a set of strategies and actions that will protect the county’s working lands and promote the agricultural economy. This plan was developed after intensive research was conducted involving statistical analysis, published reports, surveys and interviews with local producers, business operators, residents, and agricultural support personnel.

A direct benefit associated with the adoption of this plan is that according to the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund enabling legislation, counties with an adopted plan will receive preference for project selection and an increase in funding

. Funds available through the trust fund are in the form of grants and subject to availability via appropriations made to the trust fund from the State’s annual budget.

If you have questions or would like to submit comments on the plan please contact:

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